

my colleagues say, the Democrat lethargy bills, myself and the gentleman from Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, have introduced H.R. 5656, which almost has 100 cosponsors now, that would repeal this section, which would allow the Federal Government to contract for these alternative fuels to try to bring in more energy independence to help jumpstart some of these alternative technologies, which is a huge part of the solution in order to bring down the price of gasoline at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, many of us will come to the floor to talk about this very critical issue to American families, and those who have town hall meetings know it is the number one issue on the minds of our constituents, as it well should be.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to lead this Special Order tonight. At this time I would like to yield to the coauthor of H.R. 5656, which would repeal this needless section making it more difficult to enact alternative energy policies, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, for his opening comments.

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Mr. CONAWAY. Well, I thank my colleague from Texas, and I want to say a few things. We'll get to some of our other speakers who are here tonight before we get into the heart of what you and I intend to talk about.

Mr. Speaker, the serious business of providing energy for America, whether that energy is electricity to light the lights in this hall or to run manufacturing facilities or gasoline, whether it is diesel or jet fuel to move people and goods and us around, is serious business. Yet our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are not treating it seriously. This week's get-out-of-town energy strategy included four peripheral bills that are not intended to really deal with it or intended to give cover, political cover, for the folks who voted for these four bills.

Next week, when we all go home to our constituents, we'll have to look them in the eye and tell them that, yes, we've done absolutely nothing to address the cost of gasoline that you're paying. The interesting thing about gasoline is that we may not buy gasoline every single day, but as we drive around, we see the price posted all over town, and I dare say that every single driver looks at the price to check to see what it is. Even though you may not intend to buy gasoline that day, you check those prices constantly. So it's constantly in front of our minds as it is when we have town halls or telephone town halls.

The get-out-of-town strategy included a price-gouging bill—again, puffery—because seven DOE and Federal Trade Commission price-gouging studies over the last decade have shown absolutely no evidence whatsoever of price gouging. This serious business of providing gasoline to consumers at prices that they can afford

has been reduced to sloganism: "Use it or lose it." "We can't drill our way out of these problems." They're casual, off-hand, flippant comments that don't do the seriousness of this issue justice. A 30-second sound bite works well on a television commercial, but at the heart of the matter, these are complicated issues that deserve and that should get serious consideration on both sides of the aisle.

The solutions aren't Republican. The solutions aren't Democratic. The solutions are what are best for America. To the extent that we can begin to delve deeper into what the issue might be and into what the solution might be, the better off we are, but as long as we're just very cavalier about what we're doing with the get-out-of-town energy policy or with the sloganism that seems to permeate everything that we do with respect to energy, we will not solve this issue.

Gasoline prices will continue to rise. Electricity costs will continue to go up as natural gas prices rise and as we use more and more natural gas to generate electricity. So we are not about the good work of trying to find solutions. We are simply about the bad work of being very casual, very cavalier and very unthoughtful, quite frankly, about this particular issue.

So I look forward to hearing the comments from the other two speakers we have with us tonight, and then I look forward to delving a little deeper into things that I've already talked about.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. HENSARLING. Well, I thank the gentleman for his opening comments, and I certainly thank him for his leadership and for working with me in coauthoring this critical piece of legislation to help us really start, jump start, some of the alternative fuels that will help us bring down the cost of gasoline at the pump.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I want to yield time to one of the real workhorses in Congress, to one of the outspoken advocates of trying to produce American energy in America. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time.

I wanted to, first off, say that I am a very proud cosponsor of the legislation introduced by Mr. HENSARLING from Texas and by Mr. CONAWAY also from Texas, H.R. 5656, which he referred to at the outset of this hour.

I want to talk specifically about that particular bill because it's so important, but before I get into the discussion about 5656, I want to make sure that we put it into perspective in regard to the discussion tonight.

We first heard from our colleague from North Carolina, Ms. FOXX, who was talking for 5 minutes about the issue of supply and demand. She was saying that that is a basic economic principle, and I think we all know that. As she pointed out, Mr. Speaker, our Democratic colleagues cannot legislate

away the basic principle of supply and demand.

So what we're talking about and will talk about during this hour is, I guess, the opportunity lost if we continue this folly of not going after petroleum products in our own country. We call it and we refer to it, of course, as domestic production. A lot of the focus is on ANWR—that frozen tundra on the North Slope of Alaska, that very small area where we know, as the geologists have already told us, there are something like 10 billion barrels of petroleum. At full production, we would be producing 1.5 million barrels of additional domestic oil every day from that one source.

That is a small amount compared to what is available if we were not handcuffing ourselves off of our coasts—off both our east coast and our west coast—and off the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico in what is known as OCS, or the Outer Continental Shelf. There are literally trillions of cubic feet of natural gas there which is part of our, the United States', territorial waters on the Outer Continental Shelf for which we could be drilling. There are tens of billions of gallons of petroleum. Yet the Democratic majority, Mr. Speaker, continues to prohibit, continues a moratorium which has existed since, I think, maybe, back to 1990.

Today, what we're talking about, of course, is the price of a gallon of regular gasoline. In the year and a half since the Democrats assumed the majority of not only this House but also the majority of the United States Senate, the price of a gallon of gasoline has gone from \$2.60 to \$4.08. Mr. HENSARLING, of course, pointed that out very well at the beginning of this hour.

I want to ask my colleagues to just take a look at this one poster that I want to show you. I think it's very important. I think it's very instructive. This basically is the courtesy of Representative JOHN PETERSON from Pennsylvania, who is retiring this year. He is a great Republican Member of this body who has spoken so well on this issue of giving us the opportunity to go after that natural gas and oil in the Outer Continental Shelf off of our coastline.

On this poster, it shows here that, off the Pacific coast, the amount of oil in the Outer Continental Shelf is 10 billion barrels. The amount of natural gas is estimated to be 18 trillion cubic feet. That's off the Pacific coast. Off of the Atlantic coast, the amount of oil is 2.3 billion barrels, and the amount of gas is 28 trillion cubic feet. The eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico is also off limits: Oil, 3.58 billions of gallons. Natural gas, 12 trillion cubic feet.

Mr. Speaker, that's bad enough, but now let's get to 526. I want to just take a little time before I yield back to my colleagues, who are the real experts on this.

Last year, the Democratic majority passed a bill. They called it the Energy